

TO: Chairman and Members

DATE: September 8, 2011

**SUBJECT: Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls
Determination of Suitability**

AGENDA ITEM: D

**ACTION: X
INFORMATION:**

RESOURCE PERSON: Field Representative Toni Gardner

Summary:

This agenda item is before the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) Board for a determination of the suitability of Los Angeles County's Central, Los Padrinos and Barry J. Nidorf juvenile halls. It was continued 120 days to this date by Board action at its May 12, 2011 meeting.

The CSA is mandated by Section 209, Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) to biennially inspect all juvenile halls and special purpose juvenile halls. In the event one of those facilities is found out of compliance with one or more of the minimum standards for juvenile facilities contained within Titles 15 or 24, California Code of Regulations, the probation department is required to file a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) within 60 days of having received notice from CSA of noncompliance. If any of the issues of noncompliance are not resolved within 90 days of submission of the CAP, the CSA is to make a determination of suitability at its next scheduled meeting.

Los Angeles County's Central, Los Padrinos and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Halls failed to resolve nutritional noncompliance issues cited by Los Angeles County Public Health Department within the time frame specified in WIC Section 209(d) and appeared at the September 9, 2010 Board meeting for a determination of suitability. After a status report, the Board continued the determination of suitability for six months to allow for the implementation of the county's CAP. The matter was continued again at the March 10 and May 12, 2011 meetings in order monitor the county's progress, while granting the department sufficient time to complete the corrective action.

Background:

Title 15 Section 1313, California Code of Regulations (CCR) mandates each facility administrator to obtain local specialized inspections including building and environmental safety, nutrition, fire safety, medical and mental health conditions. These inspections are conducted by local experts and are incorporated in CSA's overall inspection product. The 2008-2010 CSA biennial inspection reports for Central, Los Padrinos and Barry J. Nidorf juvenile halls found each of them out of compliance with Title 15 Sections 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463 and 1464 based on the 2009 Public Health Department inspection of the facilities, required by Health and Safety Code, Section 101045. All of the areas of noncompliance were multi-year violations.

Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls were unable to meet the corrective action deadline for the areas of noncompliance as outlined in WIC 209(d) and were required to appear at the September 9, 2010 meeting for a determination of suitability. Following a report on the remedies undertaken by the newly hired nutritional consultant, the Board continued the matter until the March 10, 2011 meeting

where updates were again given by Los Angeles County Chief Probation Officer Donald Blevins and Registered Dietician Stephanie Sasnauskus. At that meeting, the CSA Board continued the matter until the May meeting to allow the department time to obtain the funding needed for the revised menus. In May 2011, Chief Blevins reported that funding was received shortly before the CSA meeting and that additional time would be required to put the new menus into effect. The Board granted that request and asked that the matter be on the agenda in 120 days.

Phil Dao, Environmental Health Specialist III, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health conducted his 2011 nutritional health inspections of the juvenile halls, followed by a re-inspection, on the following dates - Central Juvenile Hall: March 1, 2011 and August 17, 2011; Barry J. Nidorf: March 3, 2011 and August 16, 2011; and Los Padrinos: March 4, 2011 and August 12, 2011. In his re-inspections, Mr. Dao found that Central and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Halls were now in compliance with Title 15 sections 1460, 1461, 1462 and 1463. However he found them out of compliance with section 1464 Food Service Plan for the failure of probation staff to adhere to the plan in regard to hand washing prior to food service. Los Padrinos was also found out of compliance with section 1464. Additionally, Los Padrinos was noncompliant with section 1460 Frequency of Serving because some minors were not provided with their prescribed medical diets.

Attachment "A", provided by the probation department's nutritional consultant, summarizes the portions of each regulation where the facilities were found noncompliant in 2009, the correction action timeline and the status of the corrections as of August 25, 2011. Attachment "B" is corrective action matrix prepared in response to the noncompliance noted in the August 2011 nutritional health inspections. CSA verified with Detention Services Bureau Chief Elizabeth Garcia, that the 2011 corrective action is underway.

Recommendation/Action Needed: Staff recommends that the CSA Board make a determination of suitability for the Los Angeles County Central, Los Padrinos and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Halls.